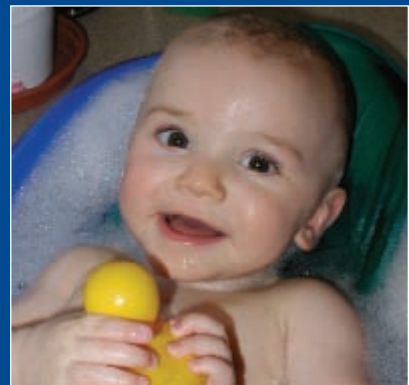
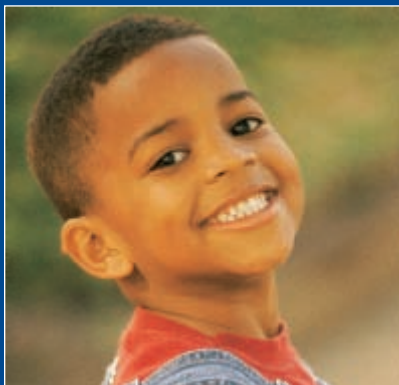


PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES



NACCRRA's National Parent Poll

MAY 2006



ABOUT NACCRRA

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 800 state and local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to high-quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research, and advocate child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. To learn more about NACCRRA and how you can join us in ensuring access to high-quality child care for all families, visit us at www.naccrra.org.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With nearly 12 million children under age 5 in America today (or about 63 percent of American children) in some kind of child care setting every week, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) commissioned a national poll in February 2006 of nearly 600 parents with young children on their usage, perceptions, and thoughts on child care.

KEY FINDINGS

Most Important Goal of Child Care

- When parents were asked what their most important goal for child care was, the top two responses were: *“providing a safe and healthy environment”* followed by *“preparing children to enter school ready to learn.”*

Top Attributes Associated with Quality Child Care

- When parents were asked what attributes they most associated with quality child care, the top two responses were: *“caregivers who are loving and nurturing”* followed by *“caregivers who have specialized training in child development.”*

Single Biggest Concern About Child Care

- When parents were asked about their single biggest concern about child care, the top two responses were: *“quality”* (by an overwhelming majority) followed by *“cost.”*

Family Economics

- While many parents would like to stay home to care for their own children, the reality is that most say they can’t afford it. Most parents think that making child care more affordable is the most important or one of the most important ways to help working families.

Parents Desire Quality Care

- Nearly 8 in 10 parents said that they would favor a \$10 increase in taxes to improve the quality of child care.
- Parents understand that children begin learning in infancy, and most believe that their child care setting offers a learning environment.

Parents Make Logical Assumptions About Child Care

- Many parents assume that child care providers have training (in first-aid and CPR, in child development, and in recognizing and reporting child abuse); that providers undergo a background check; and, that child care programs are regularly inspected. This is simply not true in too many states.

Parent Choices Among Child Care Options

- Of those parents using child care, nearly two-thirds are using formal child care arrangements (child care centers 30 percent; family child care homes 15 percent; nursery or preschool 17 percent); 23 percent are using relatives to help care for their children; and 11 percent are using friends and neighbors.
- Parents may work alternate shifts to avoid needing to use child care — for families where both parents work, 34 percent work alternate shifts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Parents want a safe environment for their children. They want their children to be learning. And, they want child care to be affordable. Parents logically assume that some entity is responsible for monitoring and enforcing basic health and safety standards so that their children come home safe and sound at the end of the day. Parents assume that caregivers have training in child development and basic first aid and CPR. Although such assumptions make a lot of sense, they are not the reality in many states.

NACCRRA calls on states to take the following actions to help ensure that children are both safe and learning while their parents work:

Minimum Pre-Service Training:

- Require all caregivers to have a minimum of 40 hours of training in child development, guidance and discipline, first-aid/CPR, recognizing child abuse, and related health and safety issues *prior* to working with children.

On-going Training:

- Require all caregivers to attend at least 24 hours of training in child development and related subjects on an annual basis (on-going training post-employment).

Training Assessment:

- Require that on-going training be assessed on a regular basis using observational methods to ensure that part of the training relates to a caregiver's ability to interact effectively with children.

Background Checks, Including Fingerprints:

- Require all caregivers to have background checks, including a fingerprint check, *prior* to working with children.

Unannounced Inspections:

- Require all child care programs to undergo random, unannounced inspections on a quarterly basis and set a reasonable maximum caseload per inspector. And, require licensing standards and inspection results to be publicly accessible through the internet.

Developmentally Appropriate Quality Standards:

- Require states to set quality standards that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the child for all types of child care (except for care provided by relatives) to help all children arrive at school ready to learn.

Current State of Child Care Safety & Caregiver Qualifications

10 states require all inspections of child care centers to be unannounced.ⁱ

12 states require caregivers working in child care centers to have training in early childhood education prior to working with children.ⁱⁱ

9 states require caregivers in small family child care homes and 15 states require caregivers in large family child care homes to have training in early childhood education prior to working with children.ⁱⁱⁱ

10 states require all family child care homes to be licensed.^{iv}

See Appendix C for state-by-state information on caregiver training requirements.

ⁱ National Association for Regulatory Administration. 2004 Child Care Center Licensing Study; (www.nara-licensing.org)

ⁱⁱ National Child Care Information Center (<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

INTRODUCTION

Nearly 12 million children under age 5 in the United States—that’s 63 percent of the nation’s children under 5—are in some type of child care arrangement every week. On average, young children with working mothers spend 36 hours a week in child care.¹ Parents need reliable, affordable child care when they work, and also a safe place where their children can learn new skills to be ready to enter school at age 5.

Brain research has found that the first years of life are a critical time for growth and development. Because millions of children in America are cared for regularly by someone other than their parents, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) commissioned a national poll in February 2006 of 592 parents with children under age 6 (Appendix A

details the methodology of the poll). The poll surveyed parents on their perceptions of child care, thoughts on minimum requirements for child care providers, the kind of care they use, including information on whether family or friends and neighbors are caring for their children, and if they are juggling work hours as a way to avoid using child care (see Appendix B for the questionnaire).

Results from the poll indicate that parents logically assume that child care programs are regularly inspected for health and safety standards, and that caregivers have some basic training in taking care of children. The truth is that many states do not require caregivers to have any training before working with children; and most states do not have annual unannounced inspections of child care programs.

KEY FINDINGS

What Parents Want In Their Child Care Arrangements

Most Important Goal of Child Care: When parents were asked what the most important goal for child care was, the top two responses were: *“providing a safe and healthy environment”* followed by *“preparing children to enter school ready to learn.”*

Top Attributes Associated with Quality Child Care: When parents were asked what attributes they most associated with quality child care, the top two responses were: *“caregivers who are loving and nurturing”* followed by *“caregivers who have specialized training in child development.”*

Single Biggest Concern About Child Care: When parents were asked about their single biggest concern about child care, the top two responses were: *“quality”* by an overwhelming majority, followed by *“cost.”*

Parents Struggle with Cost & Want Quality Care

- Three-quarters of parents think that making affordable child care available to parents is the most important or one of the most important ways to help working families.
- 61 percent of parents who are employed believe that in today’s economy both parents need to work to make ends meet; affordable child care is a necessity, not a choice.
- The majority of parents who did not consider staying at home said they couldn’t afford it.
- A majority of parents are most concerned about the quality of child care (55 percent).
- Nearly 8 in 10 parents said they would favor \$10 a year in increased taxes to improve the quality of care.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. *Who’s Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 2002: October, 2005*

KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

Parents Make Logical Assumptions about Child Care

- While very few states require caregivers to have specialized training before working with children, most parents (65 percent) assume that caregivers have training to work with children.
- The majority of parents believe that most child care programs are inspected regularly (58 percent), when, in reality, funding cuts have made such inspections more infrequent.
- Nearly two-thirds of parents believe child care programs are licensed, caregivers undergo a background check, are trained in first-aid and CPR, and are trained to recognize and report signs of child abuse. Actually, standards vary by state and many states have minimal or no such requirements. Parents are often shocked to hear about the wide variety of state licensing requirements.
- Over 80 percent of parents believe that child care providers offer learning opportunities for children, just as they believe that their own public schools are better than the rest.² In actuality, the quality of the learning environments varies widely.
- Most parents (79 percent) think children start learning before the age of one.

Use of Child Care

- Almost half of parents of children under 6 say their youngest child is currently (or has been) in regular child care arrangements.
- Of those using child care, more than six in 10 parents (62 percent) use formal child care options, such as a child care center (30 percent) or family child care home provider (15 percent), or a nursery or part-day pre-school (17 percent) for their youngest child.

- Another 23 percent use relatives and 11 percent use other informal types of care, such as friends and neighbors.
- For families where both parents work, 34 percent work alternate shifts. Parents working alternate shifts are much more likely not to use child care.

How Parents Think The Quality of Child Care Can Be Improved

- 96 percent of parents favor requiring all types of child care to meet basic standards of quality.
- 95 percent of parents favor requiring training for caregivers before they work with children.
- 95 percent of parents favor requiring training programs for caregivers, including classes in child development, first-aid and CPR, child guidance and discipline, and recognition of child abuse.
- 95 percent of parents favor requiring inspections of child care programs.
- 93 percent of parents favor requiring caregivers to participate in on-going training programs.
- 93 percent of parents favor improving existing health and safety standards for child care.
- 93 percent of parents favor providing public funding to ensure all caregivers have adequate training.
- 92 percent of parents favor setting quality standards for all types of child care to help children arrive at school ready to learn.

² A June 2003 poll conducted by Gallup shows that only 26 percent of Americans give schools in the country as a whole a grade of A or B, but 48 percent give their local schools a grade of A or B.



PARENTS NEED CHILD CARE

For parents using child care, the principal reason for reliance on outside care is employment (74 percent), followed by a small group who are seeking child care for a specific benefit related to the child (such as socialization and learning). Young children under age 5 with working mothers spend, on average, 36 hours per week in some type of child care setting.

Nearly half (46 percent) of the parents using child care have at some point considered staying home. The figures are even higher among parents under 30 (60 percent). Minority parents are also slightly more likely than white parents to have considered staying home (white: 44 percent; minority: 49 percent; Latino: 50 percent).

The data also reveal that there are regional differences as well, with parents in the Northeast most likely to have considered staying home (Northeast: 56 percent; Midwest: 36 percent;

South: 46 percent; West: 46 percent). It is possible that the higher cost for child care may be a contributing factor as to why parents in the Northeast disproportionately consider staying at home.

Parents who stay at home, and those who considered doing so, are highly motivated by the belief that at least one parent should be home with the child (58 percent). Despite that desire, for most parents, staying at home to take care of their child is not an option, because of economic reasons. A majority of those who did not consider staying at home (52 percent) say they couldn't afford to do so. Very simply, parents are working to support their families. This may not be their first choice, but it is their reality. About one-fifth of parents (19 percent) responded that work is important to them and only 3 percent responded that they didn't consider staying at home because they loved their job.

PERCEPTIONS VERSUS REALITIES OF CHILD CARE

Understandably, many parents believe that when it comes to something as important as the welfare of children, special care would be taken and due diligence would be exercised by governmental entities. Unfortunately, more often than not, this is not the case.

Parents, quite logically, assume that caregivers have the appropriate training and that some government entity monitors caregivers to ensure that children are in safe environments. The reality is that there are no federal standards and that the state record is mixed.



More than seven in 10 parents believe that caregivers are trained in first aid and CPR (72 percent), and to recognize and report child abuse (70 percent). Two-thirds of parents also believe that caregivers undergo a background check (67 percent). Notably, women (70 percent) are more likely than men (59 percent) to assume caregivers go through background checks. Likewise, college educated parents (70 percent) are more likely than less educated parents (64 percent) to believe that caregivers undergo a background check. In addition, a majority of parents believe that some government entity inspects all child care facilities (58 percent). See Table 1.

TABLE 1

Parents' Perceptions of Existing Child Care

Standards	Percent Saying True "Some" or "Most of the Time"
All caregivers provide learning opportunities	83
All caregivers are trained in first-aid/CPR	72
All caregivers are trained to recognize or report child abuse	70
All caregivers must have a background check	67
All caregivers are required to have training in child development	65
All child care programs are required to be licensed	63
All caregivers are trained in child discipline and guidance	58
The government inspects all child care programs	58

Parents were also asked if they believed that caregivers provided a learning environment some or most of the time — **more than eight in 10 parents believe that it is more true than not that caregivers are actually providing a learning environment** (83 percent). Working women, Latino parents, and women in general were most likely to believe this is true.

But a learning environment for children means trained caregivers. About **two-thirds of parents believe that caregivers are required to have training in child development** (65 percent); **and are required to have a license**³ (63 percent). Parents are more skeptical about training in guidance and discipline, but a majority still believes that caregivers have training in this area (58 percent).

In reality, only 12 states require caregivers working in child care centers to have training in early childhood development before working with children. Nine states require such pre-service training for small family child care home

providers and 15 for larger ones.⁴ See Table 2 and see Appendix C for a state-by-state listing of training-related requirements.

Both licensing and inspection requirements, as with other safety-related requirements, vary widely from state to state. For example, only 10 states require all inspections to be unannounced for child care centers. With regard to state licenses, 41 states allow some number of children to be in family child care homes that are not required to be licensed.

These numbers indicate that while parents think that caregivers and child care programs are meeting certain minimal standards, which include training in child development and child safety, and that caregivers are subject to inspections and licensing, this is not always the case. In too many states a large number of caregivers and programs have only the most minimal standards to meet, if any.

TABLE 2

State Requirements

State Requirements	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Pre-service training in Early Childhood Education (ECE)	12	9 ^v
All inspections unannounced	10	*
Licensing required for all family child care providers	N/A	10**

^v 9 states require caregivers in small family child care homes to have at least one hour of training in early childhood education or related topics; 15 states require such training for caregivers in large family child care homes. Definitions of small and large homes vary from state to state based on the child-staff ratio requirements states have.

* 39 states require unannounced inspections for family child care homes in cases where there is a complaint.

** 41 states allow some number of children to be in family child care homes that are not required to be licensed.

³ Licensing can be an indicator of the training a caregiver has, as some states may require minimal training for licensed caregivers.

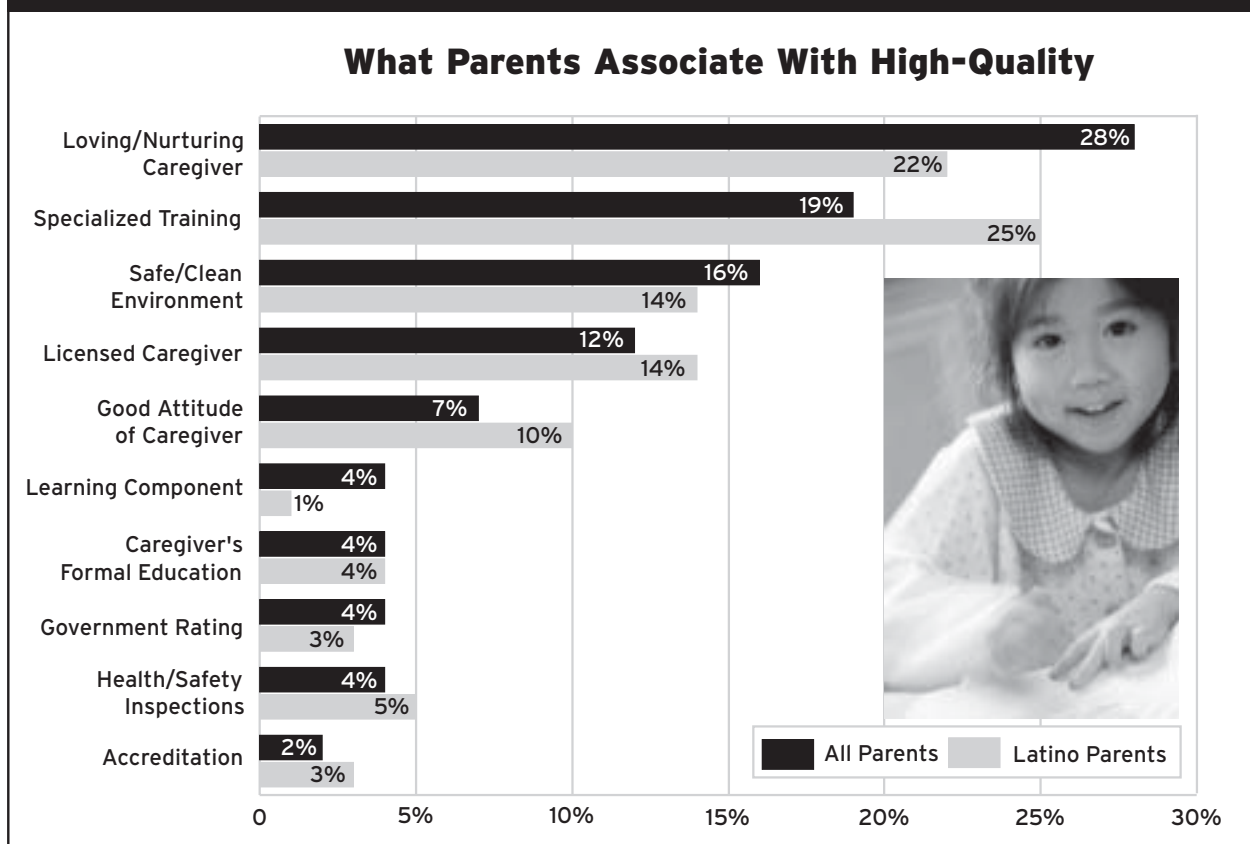
⁴ National Child Care Information Center (<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>)

PARENTS' VIEWS ON QUALITY CHILD CARE

More than half of the parents (55 percent) say their biggest concern about child care is quality, followed by cost (17 percent), reliability (12 percent), and availability (5 percent). At the top of the list of what parents consider quality care is loving and nurturing caregivers (28 percent), followed by specialized training (19 percent), and a safe and clean environment (16 percent). Notably, among Latinos, specialized training tops the list (25 percent), followed closely by loving caregivers (22 percent), safe and clean environments and licensing (both 14 percent), and caregivers with good attitudes (10 percent).

Overall, while about one-third of parents associate quality with the caregiver having a good attitude and being loving and nurturing (see Figure 1), more than one-quarter of all parents and almost three in 10 Hispanic parents relate the caregivers' training and education with quality. Taken together with parents who are linking quality with state government quality ratings, accreditation, and learning environments for their children, which all require the caregiver to be adequately trained or educated, more than one-third of parents associate the caregivers' qualifications with quality. In addition, urban parents (27 percent) are more likely to associate specialized training with high-quality child care than suburban (16 percent) or rural parents (14 percent).

FIGURE 1

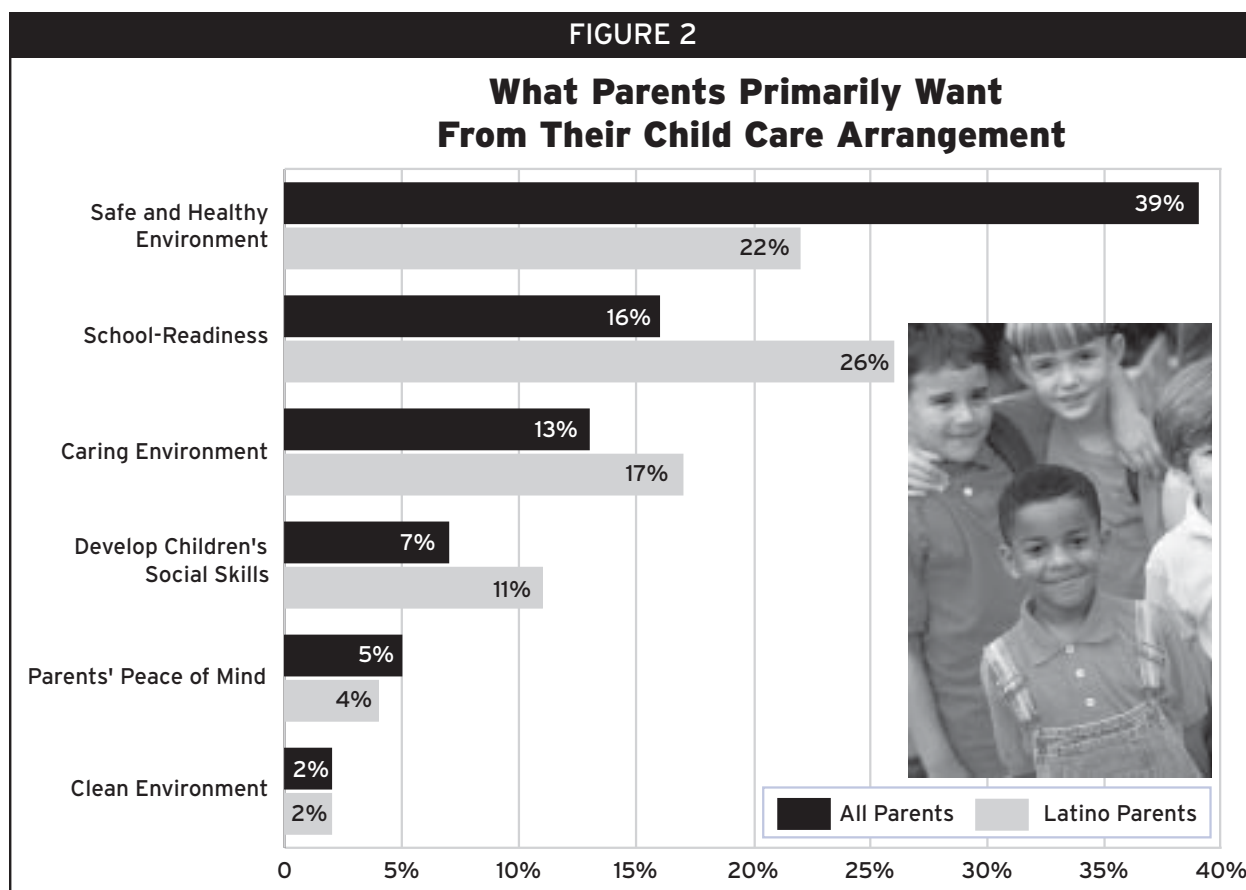


While the number of parents listing the caregiver's qualifications as the primary indicator of quality is slightly lower than those associating the caregiver's attitude or disposition with quality, it should be noted that specialized training for the caregiver ranks second only to a loving and nurturing caregiver in parents' minds as to what constitutes quality child care.

There is little difference based on parents' education levels, although non-college educated parents (30 percent) are slightly more likely than their more educated counterparts (25 percent) to associate loving caregivers with quality child care. White parents (30 percent) are more likely than minorities (21 percent) to associate loving caregivers with quality child care, while minorities (19 percent) are twice as likely as whites (10 percent) to cite licensing.

WHAT PARENTS WANT IN THEIR CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Understandably, the most important goal of child care for many parents is that, at the end of the day, their children come home safe and sound. Nearly four out of 10, as Figure 2 shows, say the most important goal for child care is to provide a safe and healthy environment (39 percent). The second most frequent response from parents was the goal of preparing children to enter school ready to learn (16 percent). Notably, although Latino parents also place a high priority on a safe and healthy environment (22 percent) and a caring environment (17 percent), they place a higher priority on school readiness (26 percent) and social skill development (11 percent) than parents overall.



HOW PARENTS MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT CHILD CARE

It is not surprising that a loving environment (30 percent) tops the list, as parents understandably want their children to be cared for in a loving manner. A safe environment (23 percent) is another important consideration for parents looking for child care. Add to the equation a caregiver's good attitude and a clean environment, and the majority of parents are basing their decision on aspects of child care that are most easily recognizable by conversations with the caregiver and looking around.

Given that many parents assume that most caregivers are required to have training, undergo background checks, and that child care programs are inspected, it is not surprising that many parents just do a "gut check" on child care. The cost of child care is an important factor in



parents' child care decisions, with 17 percent of parents considering it the most important factor. Latino parents are especially sensitive to cost, with 24 percent saying it was the most important factor in their child care decision. Given that most parents (55 percent) say that child care expenses range between the middle of their monthly bills to their largest expense, this is not surprising. Among parents who pay for child care, three in 10 say it is

their largest bill or the largest after paying rent or mortgage; another 37 percent say child care expenses rank in the middle of their monthly bills. African-American parents are most likely to pay a larger portion of their income in child care, with 38 percent of those paying for child care ranking it as their largest bill after rent or mortgage and 46 percent ranking it in the middle.



PARENTS' VIEWS ON FUNDING CHILD CARE

More than three-quarters of parents (79 percent) support expanding public education to include younger children and using public money to improve the quality of child care. Support for expanding public education to younger children is especially high among Latino parents (91 percent). Given the millions of young children in some type of child care (on average 36 hours per week for young children of working mothers), it makes sense to offer early education opportunities to children within their current child care arrangement.

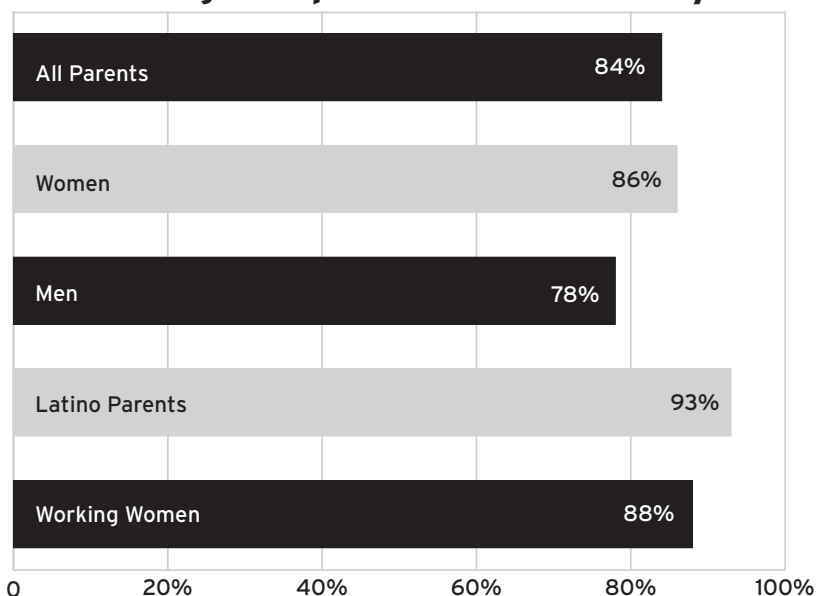
It is only natural that parents support initiatives that will provide earlier learning opportunities for their children, including supporting public funds to improve the quality of child care, as parents overwhelmingly believe that learning starts when a child is under a year old (79 percent under a year; 20 percent one year and older). Latinos are somewhat less sure that learning starts that early, although two-thirds believe it does (69 percent under a year; 29 percent one year and older). Parents' thoughts on learning are consistent with the research, which shows that 80 percent of brain development occurs by the age of 3.

As further shown in Figure 3, 84 percent of all parents favored an increase in funding to improve the quality of child care. Women (86 percent) and particularly working women (88 percent) were only surpassed in supporting such an investment by Latino parents (93 percent). While somewhat fewer men supported that investment, still more than three-quarters of men favored an increase in funding to improve the quality of child care.

Further evidence of the overwhelming support parents have for increased funding is their willingness to pay increased taxes to pay for improvements in child care quality. Typically, support tends to drop-off when increased taxes are added to the mix. However, this is not the case with child care funding. In fact, just the opposite occurs. **Almost eight in 10 parents (79 percent) are willing to pay an additional \$10 in taxes per year to increase funding for quality child care. When asked if they would support an increase of \$50 a year to improve the quality of child care, nearly two-thirds of parents still responded favorably.** Latinos express greater favorability toward increased funding (93 percent at \$10 per year) and they maintain their support at 87 percent when asked about a \$50 a year increase in taxes.

FIGURE 3

Percent of Parents Favoring Increased Funding to Improve Child Care Quality



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE

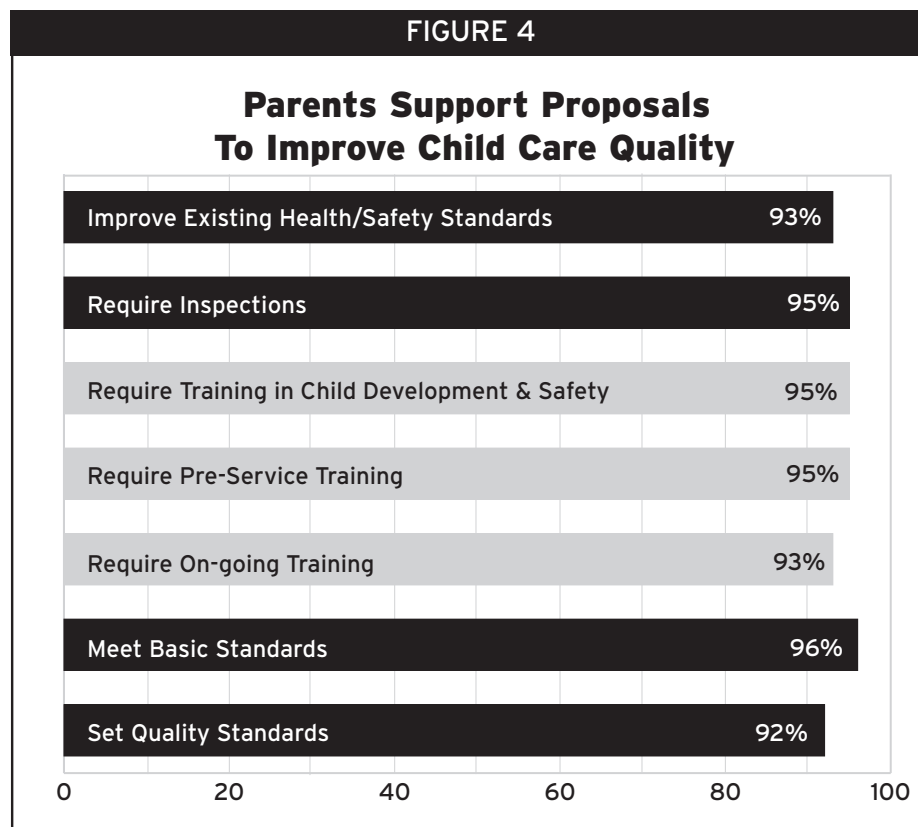
Parents, as the data show, view quality in child care mainly through a lens of caregiver attitude and the health and safety of the setting. They also want their children to learn new things and be prepared for school. So it is not surprising that most parents support policy measures that will improve the quality of child care by ensuring a healthy, safe and learning environment for children.

The measures parents favor most focus on the health and safety arena. Topping the list are health and safety measures, including training in first aid and CPR (95 percent), requiring all types of child care to meet basic standards of quality (96 percent), requiring inspections (95 percent); and improving existing health and safety standards

(93 percent). At least six out of 10 in every demographic group strongly favor these proposals (see Figure 4).

A vast majority of parents, as Figure 4 shows, also support training and quality proposals. **Support is strong for requiring training for caregivers before they work with children (95 percent), requiring that caregivers participate in on-going training (93 percent), and setting quality standards for all caregivers (92 percent).**

Proposals that include funding for training (91 percent) and funding to make child care more affordable (86 percent) have strong parent support.



CHILD CARE SETTINGS SELECTED BY PARENTS

Despite extensive research on brain development stressing that 80 percent of all brain development occurs before age 3, child care remains a hodge-podge of do-it-yourself arrangements, often left up to parents to figure out without much information or guidance. While the bulk of the data focus on parents' arrangements for their youngest child, it should be noted that over half (51 percent) of America's parents with children under 6 have multiple minors living at home. Of parents who are employed, 69 percent use some type of child care arrangement for their youngest child under age 6. Use of child care declines as the number of children per family increases. Issues of cost, quality, availability and reliability are further magnified when dealing with child care for multiple children.

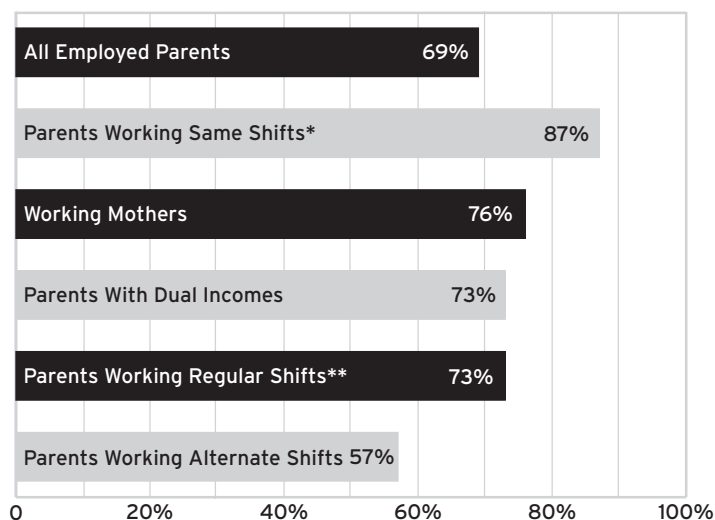
CARE FOR THE YOUNGEST CHILD

When asked about the type of child care parents have used most often for their children, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) responded that they use some type of organized child care setting (for example, child care centers: 30 percent; family child care homes: 15 percent; and nursery schools or preschools: 17 percent). Slightly more than half of parents (52 percent) say their youngest child has never been cared for by anyone other than their parents. Among Latino parents, 59 percent say that no one other than a parent has taken care of their youngest child.

Not surprisingly, the employment situation of parents correlates with their use of child care options. As Figure 5 shows, groups most likely to have their youngest child cared for by someone other than a parent tend to be employed, and live in dual-income households where both parents are working the same shifts.

FIGURE 5

Percent of Working Parents Using Child Care by Selected Demographics



* **Parents Working Same Shifts:** Parents who live in dual-income households where both parents work the same hours.

** **Parents Working Regular Shifts:** Parents who work traditional weekday hours.

Not unexpectedly, parents least likely to use child care arrangements tend to be unemployed or live in traditional households with only a single income. The vast majority of mothers not employed outside the home (84 percent), single-income households (80 percent), unemployed respondents (80 percent), and traditional households (75 percent) report having at least one parent at home caring for their youngest child.

However, the data also reveals that some dual-income households have one parent caring for their children by working different shifts.

Parents working alternate shifts (43 percent) and irregular shifts, such as nights and weekends (38 percent), are more likely than parents working regular shifts (27 percent) to say they do not use outside child care.

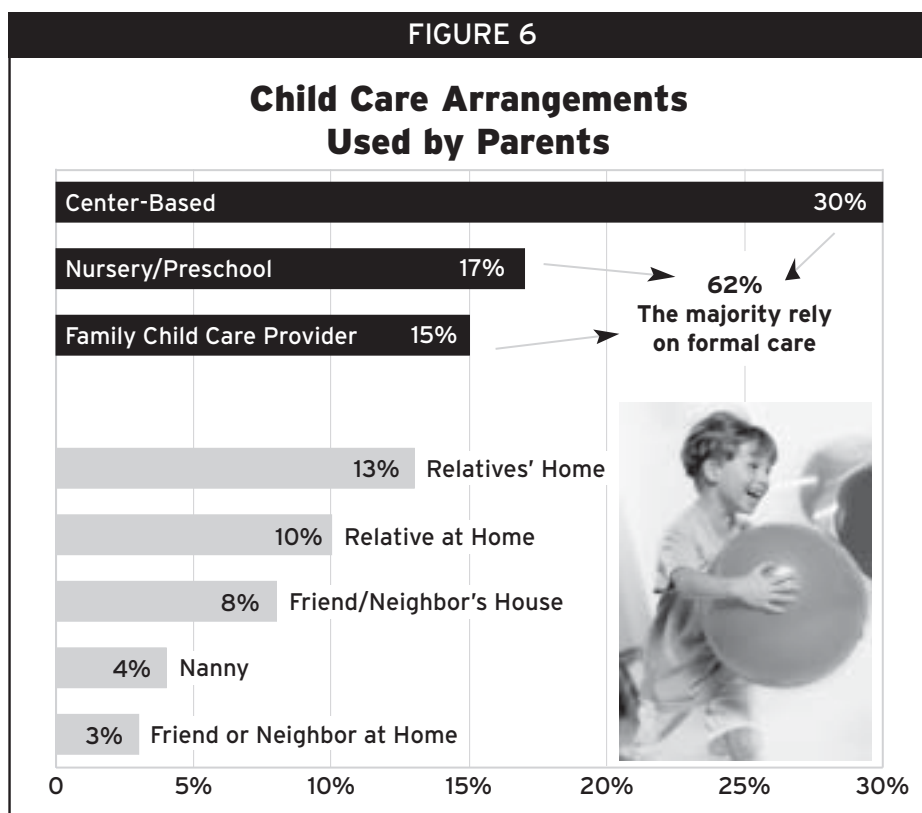
CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Among parents who are using child care for their youngest child, **the majority (62 percent) rely on formal care, with center-based care being the most prevalent (30 percent)**. See Figure 6.

Gender plays a role in deciding on formal or informal child care options with men (74 percent) more likely than women (55 percent) to report using formal child care. Similarly, older parents are also less likely to use informal options, with those over 40 years of age more likely than their

younger counterparts to use formal child care (overall older than 40: 80 percent; 40 to 44: 77 percent; 35 to 39: 72 percent; 30 to 34: 48 percent; under 30: 52 percent).

In fact, younger parents (those under 30) are more likely to use relatives (37 percent). **It should be noted that most informal care is provided by relatives (23 percent of all child care options) and not friends and neighbors (11 percent).** Notably, Latino parents rely almost as much on family (40 percent) as they do on formal child care arrangements (45 percent).



Moreover, parents working alternate and irregular shifts tend to rely more on relatives for child care (36 percent and 29 percent, respectively) compared to those working same or regular shifts (19 percent). Parents working irregular or alternate shifts are also three to four times more likely than those working traditional hours to use part-day nursery school or pre-k. See Table 3 for details.



The majority of parents who use center-based care or would consider using it say the center location is generally a stand-alone facility (61 percent). Only one in 10 say the center is located in a house of worship (12 percent) or a private or parochial elementary

school (9 percent). Even fewer report a center location that is on a job site (4 percent) or a public elementary school (3 percent).

Among families who have a stay-at-home parent taking care of their youngest child, only 15 percent say they considered child care as an option. That figure is slightly higher for minorities (whites: 14 percent; Latinos: 23 percent; all minorities: 20 percent). Notably, while only 14 percent of parents living above 200 percent

of the federal poverty line considered child care, those at or below the poverty line were slightly more likely to have considered child care options (21 percent).

TABLE 3

Type of Child Care Used by Employment Status

	All Employed	Working Regular Shifts*	Working Same Shifts**	Working Irregular Shifts	Working Alternate Shifts
Center-based	31%	30%	38%	34%	17%
Nursery/Pre-k	14	12	6	17	25
Family-based	16	21	20	5	5
Relative's home	12	9	9	17	21
Relative at home	11	10	10	12	15
Friend/neighbor's home	8	8	7	8	4
Nanny	4	2	5	2	6
Friend/Neighbor at home	3	4	3	4	6

* Parents Working Regular Shifts: Parents who work traditional weekday hours.

** Parents Working Same Shifts: Parents who live in dual-income households where both parents work the same hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is evident from the survey data that parents of young children are largely dependent on child care so that they can work to support their families. Most of these parents are using formal child care such as child care centers, family child care homes, and nursery and part-day pre-k programs.

When parents look for child care, they are concerned about quality and primarily consider the caregiver's attitude, and the cleanliness and safety of the setting. They are not generally checking the caregiver's qualifications (training, education, etc.), or the program's inspection record or licensing, as they quite logically assume that there are standards in place that are monitored and enforced. The reality, however, is that in most states caregivers are not required to have any training in early childhood development and funding cuts have led to severe reductions in program inspections. **So, while parents think that health and safety inspections of child care programs are conducted on a regular basis and caregivers have basic training in child development before they work with children, this is simply not true in many states.**

Parents want a safe environment for their children. They also want their children to be learning. As a result, parents strongly support policies requiring inspections of programs and training of caregivers. They want to ensure that their children receive learning experiences that will prepare them for school. They are willing to pay additional taxes to make these proposals a reality.

Given this high level of support for enhancing the quality of child care, NACCRRA calls on states to take the following actions to help ensure that children are safe and learning while their parents work:

Minimum Pre-Service Training:

- Require all caregivers to have a minimum of 40 hours of training in child development, guidance and discipline, first-aid/CPR, recognizing child abuse, and related health and safety issues *prior* to working with children.

On-going Training:

- Require all caregivers to attend at least 24 hours of training in child development and related subjects on an annual basis (on-going training post-employment).

Training Assessment:

- Require that on-going training be assessed on a regular basis using observational methods to ensure that part of the training relates to a caregiver's ability to interact effectively with children.

Background Checks, Including Fingerprints:

- Require all caregivers to have background checks, including a fingerprint check, *prior* to working with children.

Unannounced Inspections:

- Require all child care programs to undergo random, unannounced inspections on a quarterly basis and set a reasonable maximum caseload per inspector. And, require licensing standards and inspection results to be publicly accessible through the internet.

Developmentally Appropriate Quality Standards:

- Require states to set quality standards that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the child for all types of child care (except for care provided by relatives) to help all children arrive at school ready to learn.



APPENDIX A: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In consultation with staff at NACCRRA, Lake Research Partners (LRP) designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers in English and Spanish. The survey reached a total of 592 parents with a least one child under age 6 nationwide. The base sample consisted of 494 parents with an oversample of 98 parents of Latino origin. Respondents were at least 18 years of age. The survey was conducted February 1-14, 2006.

Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from a random list of parents with at least one child between the ages of 0 and 5 and is disproportionately female due to the nature of the topic. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of parents with at least one child under 6 in each region. Data were weighted slightly by race, age, education, and marital status to reflect the attributes of the actual population.

The oversample was weighted down to its actual proportion within the base sample. The margin of error is ± 4.4 percent.

In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, on question 4, which all respondents answered, 52 percent of those interviewed said their youngest child is not currently being cared for or has not been cared for in the past five years by someone other than a parent on a regular basis. Therefore, we can be 95 percent confident that the true percentage will fall within 4.4 percent of this percentage, or between 56.4 percent and 47.6 percent.

APPENDIX B: QUESTION WORDING

Nationwide
NACCRRRA

Interview # _____

FINAL QUESTIONNAIRE 500 Parents with children 0-5 Nationwide 100 Latino Parents oversample

Nationwide

My name is _____. I'm calling for National Opinion Surveys. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions concerning the issues facing our state and local communities. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation.

Could I please speak with the (MALE/FEMALE) 18 years or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently?

Male1
Female2

1. Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger?

Yes1
NoTERMINATE
(don't know)TERMINATE

2. What are the ages of your children?

CODE EXACT AGES OF ALL CHILDREN
IN HOUSEHOLD VERBATIM

TERMINATE ANY RESPONDENTS WHO
DO NOT HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHILD
UNDER THE AGE OF SIX.

3. How many children in your household are currently being cared for on a regular basis by someone other than a parent?

1 child1
2 children2
3 or more children3
(don't know/refused)4

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE IF RESPONDENT HAS MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN HOUSEHOLD PLEASE REFER TO YOUNGEST CHILD ONLY.

4. Is your child/youngest child currently being cared for or have been cared for in the past 5 years on a regular basis by someone other than a parent?

Yes, currently1
Yes, in the past2
No, never3
SKIP TO Q6
(don't know)4
SKIP TO Q6

ASK IF ONLY Q4=1 or 2 ALL OTHERS GO TO Q6

5. What best describes the type of care you use or have used MOST often for your child/youngest child?

READ; DO NOT ROTATE

- A child care center1
- A family care provider who provides care for several children in their home2
- A nursery school or part-day pre-school3
- A relative, who provides care for your child in their home.4
- A friend or neighbor, who provides care for your child in their home.5
- A relative, who comes to your home to care for your child.6
- A friend or neighbor, who comes to your home to care for your child.7
- An employee who comes into your home to care for your child, such as a nanny.8
- [Other specify]9
- (don't know/refused)10

ASK IF Q4=3 or 4

6. If you were to consider using child care, what best describes the type of care you would most likely use for your child/youngest child?

READ; DO NOT ROTATE

- A child care center1
- A family care provider who provides care for several children in their home2
- A nursery school or part-day pre-school3
- A relative, who provides care for your child in their home.4
- A friend or neighbor, who provides care for your child in their home.5
- A relative, who comes to your home to care for your child.6
- A friend or neighbor, who comes to your home to care for your child.7

An employee who comes into your home to care for your child, such as a nanny.8

[Other specify]9

(don't know/refused)10

ASK ONLY IF Q5 OR Q6 = 1

7. Is the child care center you've used or would consider using in the past located in a church, at your place of employment, in a public elementary school, a private or parochial elementary school, an establishment on its own or is it in some other location?

Church, temple or other place of worship1

Your place of employment2

Public elementary school3

Private or parochial elementary school ..4

An establishment on its own5

Some other location6

(don't know/refused)7

ASK ONLY IF Q4=3 or 4

8. Did you ever consider using child care for your child/youngest child on a regular basis?

yes1

no2

(don't know/refused)3

ASK Q 9 THROUGH Q10 ONLY IF Q4=1 OR 2 OR Q8=1 - ALL OTHERS GO TO Q12

9. Before you decided on the child care arrangement for your child/youngest child, how many different places did you contact?

_____ (CODE IN
ACTUAL NUMBER, CODE 101 FOR
DON'T KNOW; CODE 102 FOR NOT
APPLICABLE)

10. Which of the following reasons for considering child care comes closest to your own situation?

- Because of employment1
- Attending school2
- Illness3
- Needed a break4
- To provide a learning environment for my child5
- To provide social interaction for my child6
- (other)7
- (none)8
- (don't know/refused)9

ASK ONLY IF Q4=1 or 2

11. Was there any period where you chose to stay at home rather than place your child/youngest child in child care?

- yes1
- no2
- (don't know/refused)3

ASK ONLY IF Q4=3 or 4 or Q11=1

13. Which of the following reasons for staying at home or considering staying at home comes closest to your own situation?

- unemployed1
- believe children need at least one parent at home2
- child care too expensive3
- missed your child4
- couldn't find quality child care5
- child too young for child care6
- (other)7
- (don't know/refused)8

ASK ONLY IF Q12=2

14. Which of the following reasons for not considering staying at home comes closest to your own situation?

- Couldn't afford it1
- Work is important2
- To set an example3
- I was raised to be the provider of the family4
- To maintain my independence5
- Would drive me crazy6
- Would have no adult interaction7
- Love my job8
- (other)9
- (don't know/refused)10

RESUME ASKING ALL

14. Now, I am going to read you that same list of issues related to child care in your community again. This time please tell me which factor was the most important when you were making your child care decision?

[READ AND ROTATE]

- _Child care that is reasonably priced1
- _Child care with low staff turnover2
- _A safe environment3
- _Child care providers trained in child development4
- _A clean environment5
- _A learning environment6
- _A provider with a good attitude7
- _A loving, nurturing environment8
- _A convenient location9

15. Now I am going to read you a list of attributes some people have associated with high-quality child care. When you think about child care, which one are you most likely to associate with high-quality child care?

[READ AND ROTATE]

Caregivers have formal education, community or 4 year college	1
Caregivers have specialized training in child development	2
Caregivers are licensed to provide child care	3
Child care accredited by national organization	4
Child care has quality rating from state government	5
Caregivers have good attitude about children	6
Child care is in a safe and clean environment	7
Caregivers are loving and nurturing	8
Regular health and safety inspections ..	9
Children are learning new things	10

16. Of the following which one would you say is the MOST important goal for child care – [ROTATE] _to provide children a clean environment
_to prepare children to enter school ready to learn, _to provide children a safe and healthy environment, _to provide children a caring environment, _to provide parents with peace of mind, _to develop social skills among children,?

Provide children a clean environment	1
Prepare children to enter school ready to learn	2
Provide children a safe and healthy environment	3
Provide children a caring environment ..	4
Provide parents with peace of mind	5
Develop social skills among children	6
(all of the above)	7
(none of the above)	8
(don't know)	9

17. When you think about your own situation, what is your single biggest concern about child care, the cost, the quality, the reliability, the availability or are you more concerned about something else?

Cost	1
Quality	2
Reliability	3
Availability	4
Something else (specify _____) ...	5

18. Thinking about all of your monthly expenses, where does the cost of child care rank?

READ DO NOT ROTATE

Child care is my largest monthly bill	1
After my rent/mortgage child care is my largest monthly bill	2
Child care ranks somewhere in the middle of my monthly bills	3
Child care is among my smallest monthly bills	4
I don't pay for child care	5

19. Thinking about ways to help working families in today's economy, how important do you think affordable child care is – the most important factor, one of the most important factors, somewhat important, a little important, or not really a factor in helping working families in today's economy?

The most important	1
One of the most important	2
Somewhat important	3
A little important	4
Not really a factor	5
(Don't know)	6

20. Thinking about child care, which comes closest to your view –
[READ AND ROTATE]

_In today's economy the reality is that both parents need to work to make ends meet. Affordable child care is a necessity, not a choice1
OR

_If more parents had different priorities and made the necessary sacrifices to live within their means, many more children would be able to have a full-time parent at home. ..2
(Don't know)3

21. At what age do you think children begin to learn? _____
(CODE VERBATIM - 99 DON'T KNOW)

22. Regardless of whether or not you have a child in child care, have any of the children in your household ever participated in a public pre-kindergarten program?

Yes1
No2
(don't know)3

Now I am going to read you some different aspects of child care and I want you to tell me if you think that statement is true for most child care programs, including family home based providers in your community, true for some, or not true.

ROTATE Q23-Q30	True <u>most</u>	True <u>some</u>	Not <u>true</u>	DK <u>DK</u>
23. _All providers have to go through training in child development before they work with children	1	2	3	4
24. _The government inspects all child care programs	1	2	3	4
25. _All child care programs are required to be licensed	1	2	3	4
26. _All child care providers must have a background check	1	2	3	4
27. _Child care providers provide learning opportunities to children	1	2	3	4
28. _All providers are trained in first-aid and CPR	1	2	3	4
29. _All providers are trained to recognize and report the signs of child abuse	1	2	3	4
30. _All providers are trained in child guidance and discipline	1	2	3	4

31. Of the following organizations, which do you think is best suited to determine if providers are meeting the basic standards for a quality child care program?

READ AND ROTATE

_Federal government1
 _State government2
 _Local government3
 _Parents4

_Providers5
 _Employers6
 _Faith-based organizations7
 _Community organizations8
 (all of the above, ASK: But if you had to choose one?)9
 (none of the above, ASK: But if you had to choose one?)10
 (other)11
 (don't know)12

Now let me read you some different statements and for each one please tell me if you agree or disagree. IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK: Is that strongly/not so strongly?

	Strong agree	Not str. agree	Not str. disagree	Strong disagree	DK
ROTATE Q32-Q34					
32. _The responsibility for paying for child care programs should ONLY be the parent's responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
33. _Parents should not be the only ones responsible for early childhood education. Along with parents, the public should share the cost of providing quality child care programs	1	2	3	4	5
34. _Public education should be expanded to include younger children and public money should help pay to improve the quality of child care just as they do for K-12	1	2	3	4	5

35. Do you favor or oppose increased funding for improving the quality of child care?

IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK; Do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that choice?

Strongly favor1
 Not strongly favor2
 Not strongly oppose3
 Strongly oppose4
 (Don't know)5

END ASKING ALL
 SPLIT A GO TO Q36
 SPLIT B GO TO Q37

SPLIT SAMPLE A

36. Would you favor or oppose increased funding for improving the quality of child care if it meant that it would increase your taxes by 10 dollars a year?

IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK; Do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that choice?

- Strongly favor1
- Not strongly favor2
- Not strongly oppose3
- Strongly oppose4
- (Don't know)5

END SPLIT A GO TO Q38

SPLIT SAMPLE B

37. Would you favor or oppose increased funding for improving the quality of child care if it meant that it would increase your taxes by 50 dollars a year?

IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK; Do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that choice?

- Strongly favor1
- Not strongly favor2
- Not strongly oppose3
- Strongly oppose4
- (Don't know)5

END SPLIT B GO TO Q39

SPLIT SAMPLE A

38. Thinking about all of the priorities competing for federal funds, what should be the priority for receiving federal funds to improve the quality of child care programs – top priority, high priority, somewhat of a priority, not much of a priority, or no priority at all?

- Top priority1
- High priority2
- Somewhat of a priority3
- Not much of a priority4
- No priority at all5
- (don't know)6

END SPLIT SAMPLE A GO TO Q40

SPLIT SAMPLE B

39. Thinking about all of the priorities competing for state funds, what should be the priority for receiving state funds to improve the quality of child care programs – top priority, high priority, somewhat of a priority, not much of a priority, or no priority at all?

- Top priority1
- High priority2
- Somewhat of a priority3
- Not much of a priority4
- No priority at all5
- (don't know)6

END SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO Q40

RESUME ASKING ALL

Now I am going to read you a list of some proposals to improve child care in your community. For each item, please tell me whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

ROTATE Q40-Q48	Strong <u>agree</u>	Not str. <u>agree</u>	Not str. <u>disagree</u>	Strong <u>disagree</u>	<u>DK</u>
40. _Require all types of child care to meet basic standards of quality, including centers and family home based providers	1	2	3	4	5
41. _Set quality standards for all types of child care, including centers and family home based providers, to help all children arrive at school ready to learn.	1	2	3	4	5
42. _Provide public funding to make child care more affordable for working families	1	2	3	4	5
43. _Provide public funding to ensure all child care providers have adequate training	1	2	3	4	5
44. _Improve existing health and safety standards for child care	1	2	3	4	5
45. _Require training for child care providers before they can work with children	1	2	3	4	5
46. _Require inspection of child care programs	1	2	3	4	5
47. _Require providers to participate in on-going training programs	1	2	3	4	5
48. _Require that provider training programs include classes in child development, first aid and CPR, child guidance and discipline and recognition of the signs of abuse	1	2	3	4	5

RESUME ASKING ALL

Thank you. The few remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.

49. What is your age? _____

[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]

If Refused: GO TO Q49

ALL OTHERS GO TO Q51

50. I am going to read you some age categories. Please stop me when we get to your category:

18-24 years	1
25-29	2
30-34	3
35-39	4
40-44	5
45-49	6
50-54	7
55-59	8
60-64	9
65-69	10
70-74	11
over 75	12
(refused/don't know)	13

RESUME ASKING ALL

51. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

[CIRCLE ONE – DO NOT READ]

1 - 11th grade	1
High school graduate	2
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech)	3
Some college (incl. jr. college or associate degree)	4
College graduate	5
Post-graduate school	6
(don't know)	7

52. Are you married, unmarried but living with partner, single, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Married	1
Unmarried, but living with partner	2
Single	3
Separated/divorced	4
Widowed	5
(don't know)	6

53. Which of the following best describes your current status?

READ CATEGORIES:

employed full-time	1
employed part-time	2
retired	3
homemaker	4
student	5
unemployed	6
(other)	7
(don't know/refused)	8

ASK ONLY IF MARRIED OR UNMARRIED WITH PARTNER Q52=1 or 2

54. Is your spouse or unmarried partner currently employed full-time, employed part-time, unemployed and looking for work, retired, a homemaker, or a full-time student?

Employed full-time	1
Employed part-time	2
Unemployed	3
Retired	4
Homemaker	5
Student	6
(don't know/refused)	7

ASK ONLY IF EMPLOYED Q54= 1 OR 2

55. Do you regularly work in the evenings or nights or on weekends?

- Yes, evenings/nights1
- Yes, weekends2
- Yes, both3
- No4
- (Refused/DK)5

IF MARRIED OR UNMARRIED WITH PARTNER (Q54=1 or 2)

56. Does your spouse or partner work during the hours or shifts that you do, or do they work a different schedule?

- Same1
- Different2
- (Spouse does not work)3
- (refused/DK)4

57. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background?

[IF "NO", ASK:] What is your race – white, black, Asian, or something else?

- White1
- Black / African American2
- Spanish speaking/Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican, etc.)3
- Asian4
- Native American5
- (other)6
- (don't know/refused)7

58. What is your zip code? _____

59. And finally, strictly for verification purposes, can I have just your first name?

That completes our public opinion survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation, and have a pleasant (day/evening).

APPENDIX C: REQUIREMENTS BY STATE

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Required for Caregivers in Child Care Centers

States	Minimum ECE Pre-service Qualifications	On-going Clock Hours
Alabama	None	12
Alaska	None	20
Arizona	None	12
Arkansas	None	10
California	Regional Occupation Program certificate of training in child care, 95 clock hours in child care and development, and 150 hours of experience	0
Colorado	None	9
Connecticut	None	1% of hours worked
Delaware	Completion of a vocational child care program and 6 months of experience	15
District of Columbia	CDA credential and experience	U
Florida	None	10
Georgia	None	10
Hawaii	CDA credential or certificate in ECE and 1 year experience	0
Illinois	CDA or CCP credential	15
Indiana	None	12
Iowa	None	6
Kansas	None	4
Kentucky	None	12
Louisiana	None	3
Maine	None	30
Maryland	90 clock hours in early childhood development and programming and 1 year of experience	3
Massachusetts	Completion of a 2-year vocational child care course	20
Michigan	None	0
Minnesota	CDA credential and 1,560 hours of experience	2% of hours worked
Mississippi	None	15
Missouri	None	12
Montana	None	8
Nebraska	None	12

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Required for Caregivers in Child Care Centers

States	Minimum ECE Pre-service Qualifications	On-going Clock Hours
Nevada	None	15
New Hampshire	Completion of a 2-year vocational child care course	6
New Jersey	CDA or CCP credential and 1 year of experience	8
New Mexico	None	24
New York	None	30/2 yrs.
North Carolina	None	5-15 hours/yr. based on education or experience
North Dakota	None	13
Ohio	None	15
Oklahoma	None	12
Oregon	None	15
Pennsylvania	None	6
Rhode Island	None	20
South Carolina	None	15
South Dakota	None	20
Tennessee	None	12
Texas	None	15
Utah	None	20
Vermont	CDA credential	12
Virginia	None	10
Washington	None	10
West Virginia	None	15
Wisconsin	2 non-credit, department-approved courses in ECE and 80 days of experience	25
Wyoming	None	30/2 yrs.
TOTAL	12	-

Total includes the District of Columbia.

KEY:

U = Unspecified number of hours required

CDA credential = Child Development Associate Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition

CCP = Certified Child Care Professional Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association

N/A = Not applicable

Source: National Child Care Information Center (<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>).

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Requirements for Caregivers in Family Child Care Homes

STATES	Size of Home	ECE Pre-service Qualifications	ECE training required in Orientation and/or Initial Licensure	On-going Clock Hours
Alabama	Small AND Large	24 clock hours of training	None	20/yr
Alaska	Small	None	None	12/yr
	Large	None	None	20/yr
Arizona	Small	NL (Voluntary certification)		
	Large	4 clock hours of department-provided training	None	9/yr
Arkansas	Small	NL (Voluntary certification)		
	Large	None	None	10/yr
California	Small AND Large	15 clock hours of training in preventive health (incl. CPR and first aid)	None	0
Colorado	Small AND Large	None	12 clock hours of approved orientation training within 3 months of licensure	9/yr
Connecticut	Small	None	None	0
	Large	None	None	1% of hours worked
Delaware	Small	6 clock hours of approved training provided by the licensing department	15 clock hours of approved training during first year of licensure	12/yr
	Large	Certificate from a vocational/technical school child care program and 18 months of experience	None	15/yr
District of Columbia	Small	None	None	0
	Large	NC	NC	NC
Florida	Small	30-hours Family Child Care training course with score of 70+ on competency exam and 5 hours approved training in early literacy and language development	None	10/yr
	Large	CDA credential, 30 hours of Family Child Care Training Course with score of 70+ on competency exam, 5 hours training in early literacy and language development	10-hour specialized training module with a score of 70 or better on competency exam within 6 months of licensure	10/yr

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Requirements for Caregivers in Family Child Care Homes

STATES	Size of Home	ECE Pre-service Qualifications	ECE training required in Orientation and/or Initial Licensure	On-going Clock Hours
Georgia	Small AND Large	None	None	10/yr
Hawaii	Small	U	None	U
	Large	CDA Credential and 4 years of experience	None	0
Idaho	Small	NL (Voluntary License)	NL	NL
	Large	None	None	0
Illinois	Small	None	None	15/yr
	Large	CDA Credential	6 clock hours of training related to children with special needs within 3 years	0
Indiana	Small AND Large	None	CDA credential within 3 years	0
Iowa	Small AND Large	None	None	12/yr
Kansas	Small AND Large	None	None	5/yr
Kentucky	Small	None	6 clock hours of training within the first 3 months	6/yr
	Large	None	6 clock hours of training within the first 3 months	12/yr
Louisiana	Small	NL (Voluntary registration)		
	Large	NC		
Maine	Small	None	None	6/yr
	Large	NC		
Maryland	Small	8 clock hours of approved training	None	12/2 yrs
	Large	NC	NC	NC
Massachusetts	Small	Orientation session approved by the licensing office	None	15/3 yrs
	Large	5 clock hours of large family child care training approved by the licensing office	None	30/3 yrs

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Requirements for Caregivers in Family Child Care Homes

STATES	Size of Home	ECE Pre-service Qualifications	ECE training required in Orientation and/or Initial Licensure	On-going Clock Hours
Michigan	Small	None	None	0
	Large	None	20 clock hours of training within 2 years	0
Minnesota	Small AND Large	None	6 clock hours of approved training within 1 year	6/yr
Mississippi	Small	NL (Voluntary registration)	NL	NL
	Large	CDA or MS Child Care director's credential and 2 years of experience or equiv.	None	15/yr
Missouri	Small	None	None	12/yr
	Large	CDA credential	None	12/yr
Montana	Small	None	Department approved day care orientation within 6 months	8/yr
	Large	None	Department approved day care orientation within 2 months	8/yr
Nebraska	Small AND Large	None	None	12/yr
Nevada	Small AND Large	None	9 clock hours of training within 90 days	15/yr
New Hampshire	Small AND Large	None	None	6/yr
New Jersey	Small	NL (Voluntary registration)	NL	NL
	Large	NC	NC	NC
New Mexico	Small AND Large	None	None	12/yr
New York	Small AND Large	None	15 clock hours of training in the first 6 months	30/2 yrs
North Carolina	Small	None	None	12/yr
	Large	NC	NC	NC
North Dakota	Small	None	9 clock hours of training in the first year	9/yr
	Large	None	10 clock hours of training in the first year	13/yr

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Requirements for Caregivers in Family Child Care Homes

STATES	Size of Home	ECE Pre-service Qualifications	ECE training required in Orientation and/or Initial Licensure	On-going Clock Hours
Ohio	Small		NL	
	Large	None	None, assuming compliance with inspection	15/yr
Oklahoma	Small	None	None	12/yr
	Large	None	None	15/yr
Oregon	Small	Family Child Care Overview session	None	8/2yrs
	Large	None	None	15/yr
Pennsylvania	Small	CDA or CCP credential	None	12/2yrs
	Large	CDA or CCP credential	None	6/yr
Rhode Island	Small	None	None	10/2yrs
	Large	CDA credential	None	8/yr
South Carolina	Small	None	None	0
	Large	None	15 clock hours within first year of employment	20/yr
South Dakota	Small	NL (Voluntary registration)		
	Large	CDA credential	None	10/yr
Tennessee	Small	None	DHS-sponsored child care orientation class within the first 3 months	4/yr
	Large	None	DHS-sponsored child care orientation class within the first 3 months	8/yr
Texas	Small	CDA or CCP credential, 15 hours annual training plus special-needs training if applicable	None	20/yr
	Large	72 hours of training in child development, 30 hours in business management, 3 years of experience	None	20/yr
Utah	Small	None	5 clock hours of approved training within 90 days	0
	Large	None	None	20/yr
Vermont	Small	None	None	6/yr
	Large	CDA credential and 2 years of experience	None	12/yr
Virginia	Small	NL (Voluntary registration)		
	Large	None	None	6/yr

Minimum Early Childhood Education (ECE) Qualifications Requirements for Caregivers in Family Child Care Homes

STATES	Size of Home	ECE Pre-service Qualifications	ECE training required in Orientation and/or Initial Licensure	On-going Clock Hours
Washington	Small	None	20 clock hours of approved training within 6 months	U
	Large	NC		
West Virginia	Small	None	None	8/yr
	Large	None	None	10/yr
Wisconsin	Small	None	40 clock hours of approved training within 6 months of becoming licensed	15/yr
	Large	NC		
Wyoming	Small	None	None	30/2yrs
	Large	100 clock hours of approved training and 2 years of experience	None	30/2yrs
TOTAL FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES	Small	9	13	35
	Large	15	13	38

Total includes the District of Columbia

KEY:

U = Unspecified number of hours required

NL = Not Licensed/License not required

NC = No Category

CDA = Child Development Associate Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition

CCP = Certified Child Care Professional Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association

Source: National Child Care Information Center (<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>).

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